

This statement also incited a riot, and for a moment it looked as though Sheriff Wade stood in danger of being lynched. A number of persons, however, among whom was Julian Cox, became violent, it is said, and it was necessary for Sheriff Wade to draw his revolver for protection.

Don't Know Who They Were.

As stated, everybody is densely ignorant of the personnel of the lynching party. One well-known citizen, speaking seriously, informed me that the lynchers were really women, who, becoming disgusted with the delay on the part of the sheriff, decided to murder the two members of their sex, finally determined to take matters into their own hands.

There is no doubt, however, that the party consisted of men, and were not more than twenty in number. Jailer Burch's declarations to the contrary notwithstanding.

Worked Like Professionals.

The lynching party evidently knew their business. The rope was tied with a hangman's knot, and looked as though it was the work of an expert. This fact caused Mr. Samuel Turner, clerk of the county court to remark:

"I know of two men in the county who can tie a knot like that, and they are Capt. Piggford and Jim Wenk."

There seems to be no doubt that the reason for lynching Cocking was because it was the intention to transfer him in a few days to the new jail recently completed at La Plata.

The authorities were merely waiting for the plaster to dry in the new structure. The lynchers realized that once in the jail at La Plata Cocking would be beyond their reach, so they determined to make use of a golden opportunity and take him from there. The new jail at Port Tobacco, the walls of which, it is claimed, can be easily penetrated by mosquitos.

Guards Removed Last Week.

Up to last week the jail was guarded by two men, Deputy Sheriff Barker and Hugh Murphy. It was costing the county \$4 per day for their services, so they were released from duty. The protestations of the part of Cocking that he was afraid to stay in the jail unguarded. All danger of lynching disappeared some weeks ago and Cocking was not too badly taken care of. He was taken to the new jail, and on the day of the lynching he was taken to the house of the latter, about seventy-five yards from the jail, for his arrest, and was also taken out often for exercise.

It seems that the relatives of Cocking were not innocent of the crime, and Mr. John Miller, who was a juror in the trial, visited the prisoner almost daily, carrying to him luxuries. The lynching was kept so remarkably quiet, and it is not likely that any of the party of the lynchers will be discovered.

Ghostly Apparatus.

An interesting feature in connection with the withdrawal of the guard from the jail is the open statement of Deputy Sheriff Barker that several of the lynchers were identified by the sudden appearance of two ghostly figures in white, apparently females, in his room at the jail. Barker claimed not to see the figures in ghosts, nor, he says, is he superstitious, but he said that he saw the apparitions, as stated.

Every one with whom I have conversed has thought that the lynching was the proper thing, and it is approved upon all sides. Had not John Miller requested that the extreme measures be followed, it is claimed that Cocking would have been strung up on the day of the discovery of the crime.

The men and the rope to end his earthly life were on the spot, it is claimed.

Sheriff Wade is conducting an inquest into the body of Cocking this afternoon at the jail. It is believed that the proceedings will be of the nature of the proceedings are secret.

Deputy Harbour Describes It.

"About 1 o'clock last night about fifty masked men called at the home of Washington Burch, who was a juror in the trial, and went in and took him to Port Tobacco, where he had his home, having been there through the window before they entered. They tied him and carried him to the jail and made him unlock it. They then seized him, and he was taken to the jail awaiting trial for the murder of his wife and sister-in-law at Hill Top last April. A rope was put around his neck. He seemed then to be in a state of collapse, but they told him he had better be damned just saying his prayers."

He was dragged out of the jail and hurried out of town across the bridge, and the lynchers took care to lock Burch in the jail and carry the keys with them. They then went on with Cocking. About 3 o'clock I got wind of what had happened, and walked over to the bridge, and found Cocking suspended by a rope, cold in death.

Fear of a Mob.

Cocking was taken to Baltimore April 27 in order to escape the vengeance of the mob, and was returned to the Charles county authorities May 21, as his trial had been set for the day following. His countenance, which was a two weeks' extension of time, which was removed upon the usual affidavit the case was removed to an adjoining county, and would have come up for trial in September. There has been considerable talk of the case being removed to the county of Prince Georges, but not much credence was given to the reports.

The Crime.

The story of the crime is as follows: Early on the morning of April 24 a colored man, Nicholas Jones, went to Cocking's house at Hill Top to make a purchase, and found the door locked. He called and the door was opened, and he went down there and found Joseph Cocking tied with ropes about the feet, and slightly wounded. He released Cocking, and urged him to get out of the house as fast as he could. There Jones found Mrs. Cocking and her sister, Miss Daisy Miller, murdered in their beds.

Cocking claimed that during the night he had been assaulted by two robbers, who beat and wounded him and then threw him out of the house. He said that he was alone, and that he was not a party to the crime. He was able to show any motive on Cocking's part for the brutal murders.

Story of an Eyewitness.

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

BALTIMORE, Md., June 27.—A traveling salesman for a Baltimore house who does not wish his name mentioned, was an involuntary witness of the lynching. He said: "I had been called to Hill Top last afternoon, and a game of base ball was in progress there. But I did not give them much credence. Between 12 and 1 o'clock I was returning to my home, and I saw a little bridge about 400 yards from the jail by which 20 or 30 persons, dressed as women, were walking. I saw the mob had some lights on the bridge with a rope around his neck. All had their faces blacked up, and the mob gave plenty of illumination for the work. I heard the leader give the man with the rope around his neck time to pray or make a statement. He refused to do either apparently, and he was pitched toward the rail, the other end of the rope having been securely fastened to the bridge. The man's feet dangled in the water, and after a few spasmodic kicks all was quiet, and silently the mob dispersed."

Dressed Like Women.

Mr. R. Jamison of La Plata came to Baltimore this morning and told a reporter for the News that he had been told by a deputy sheriff of Charles county. He said: "Between 12 and 1 o'clock this morning a crowd of thirty or more persons, dressed in women's clothes, came to the jail at Port Tobacco and demanded the keys of Washington Burch, the old colored janitor. By threats of hanging him the old key was given to them. They then went to the jail and the keys were delivered to the mob. Cocking was brought from the jail and taken to the country road to a little bridge which was used to drain the marshes. He was hung from it and the crowd dispersed."

Planned at a Base Ball Game.

Capt. P. N. Thrasher, conductor of the Pope Creek express, which arrived at Calvert station at 9 o'clock this morning, gathered a full account of the lynching

BONA-FIDE CIRCULATION.

A reference to the statement below will show that the circulation sworn to is a bona fide one.

It is easily possible for a newspaper with an elastic conscience to swell its legitimate circulation enormously, by sending out thousands of papers to newsmen, which are returned, but nevertheless are included in what purports to be an honest statement of circulation.

Intelligent advertisers, however, judge by results, and bogus circulations don't give them.

The family circulation of The Star is many thousands in excess of any other Washington paper and is believed to be fully five times that of our afternoon contemporary.

Circulation of The Evening Star.

SATURDAY, June 20, 1896.....33,488

MONDAY, June 23, 1896.....37,933

TUESDAY, June 24, 1896.....37,403

WEDNESDAY, June 25, 1896.....37,636

THURSDAY, June 26, 1896.....37,709

FRIDAY, June 26, 1896.....39,807

Total.....174,969

Daily average.....29,001

I solemnly swear that the statement represents only the number of copies of THE EVENING STAR circulated during the six calendar days ending Friday, June 26, 1896—that is, the number of copies actually sold, delivered, furnished or mailed, for valuable consideration, to bona fide purchasers or subscribers, and that none of the copies so counted are returnable or to remain in the office unused.

J. WHITE, HERRON,

Cashier Evening Star Newspaper Co.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this twenty-seventh day of June, A. D. 1896.

JOHN C. ATHEY,

Notary Public, D. C.

from the passengers on his train. It is as follows: "A base ball game was in progress yesterday afternoon at Hill Top, where the Cocking tragedy occurred, and after the game was over the lynch party, led by Cocking, was discussed in order to save the county the expense of trying him. The lynch party was composed of about 25 of the leading residents of the county, it is said. The idea of lynching the accused mob with general favor, and as calmly as they were planning another base ball game after the lynching of Cocking was plotted. After all arrangements had been made the ball players dispersed and met again near the jail at Port Tobacco shortly before midnight. The lynching party numbered probably twenty-five, and all were masked. A number of the lynch party were to complete their disguise, and it is said several women were with the mob. The rattle-trap old jail was taken by the mob, and in charge of an aged colored man, who was aroused and ordered to give up the keys.

Persuaded by a Revolver.

"He hesitated, but when a revolver was thrust in his face he weakened and promptly handed them over. In another minute the jail door was unlocked and the mob was inside. Cocking, who had been awakened by the noise outside, seemed to fully comprehend the object of the mob's visit, and crouched tremblingly in his cell. Without delay the mob entered the cell, and dragged out of the jail. He seemed almost stupefied with fear, and offered little or no resistance. He was taken to the new bridge over Port Tobacco run, a few hundred yards distant from the jail. A noose rope was produced and thrown over his head, and he was asked to confess. He refused and declared he was innocent.

"Well, then, say your prayers, for your time has come," yelled some one in the crowd.

Would Not Pray.

"The doomed man also declined to pray, and the mob then threw him over the limb of a tree, which overhung the run, and Cocking was pushed off the bridge. The limb of the tree until his feet rested in the water. He struggled very little and died of strangulation. After the lynching the mob quietly dispersed. Just as the mob was about to disperse, a man pushed off the bridge, the rattle of carriage wheels was heard coming up the road, and a detail of several men was sent down the road to the new bridge, which proved to be a traveling salesman going from Hill Top to La Plata. He was the only witness of the mob, to the lynch party. It is generally believed that the lynch party were excited after hearing of the hanging of the negro murderer Ford. They were planning another base ball game at Elktion, and decided to take time that Cocking should share their fate."

Death of Mrs. Frank Claudy.

The announcement is made of the death in Cleveland, Ohio, of Mrs. Frank Claudy, president of the Washington Seaboard. Mrs. Claudy was a woman of many admirable and attractive qualities, and was highly respected in the literary and domestic virtues of a high degree. The news of her death will be a great shock to her very large circle of friends in this city, although she had been ill for a long time.

Columbia Athletic Lawn Festival.

There will be a lawn festival at the Columbia Athletic Club this evening, with music by the orchestra under the direction of Professor Gebelke of the Marine Band. The entertainment will take place on the tennis court adjoining the club house, and the new members of the club will be present and get acquainted. The affair is for members only.

Going to Chicago Tonight.

Mr. James L. Norris, member of the democratic national committee for this District, leaves tonight by the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad for Chicago, accompanied by his sons and daughters. Mr. Norris was summoned to Chicago to attend the national conference, the first to be held on June 30. Mr. Norris will stay at the Palmer House and his children at the Chicago Beach Hotel.

Placed on the Retired List.

Chief Engineer Jas. W. Thompson and George W. Kutz have been placed on the retired list of the navy on their own application, under the forty years' service clause. The promotions which result from the retirements are those of Passed Assistant Engineers W. M. Parks, on duty in Baltimore, and P. H. Bailey, on duty at the Naval Academy, and Assistant Engineers E. L. Beach of the Belknap and H. O. Stickney of the Naval Academy. Chief Engineer G. W. Roche, who has just returned to the navy, is the first of the Asiatic fleet, will retire for age on the 3d proximo.

The Essential Point.

Shrewd and successful advertisers know that a bogus, fake circulation, given away or sold at a nominal figure and predestined to the gutter, ash pile and garbage dump, does not bring results.

Advertisers pay for profitable results and to get them they know that a home circulation is essential. That's why the advertising columns of The Star are a daily directory of the successful business men of Washington.

LATE NEWS BY WIRE

Epworth League Indorses Washington for the Conference Next Year.

Testimony in the Case of His Dealings With Farmer Burris of Norbeck, Md.

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

HARRISBURG, Pa., June 27.—At the morning session of the Epworth League convention the recording secretary was made a member of the board of control and Mr. E. W. Mason, president of the Harrisburg Chapter, Washington, D. C., was elected. Mr. Williams is one of the leading members of the Washington delegation.

W. B. Mathews of West Virginia, Rev. H. D. Mitchell, Baltimore, and Rev. I. L. Thomas of Washington, were elected members of the advisory board. The amendment providing for biennial conventions was adopted. This was done on account of the international conference to be held in Toronto, Canada, next year.

International Conference.

President Tasker asked that the convention indorse the movement to secure for Washington the international conference in 1900.

The action was taken amid great enthusiasm.

Wm. B. Mathews of West Virginia convention wanted to know if the invitation was accepted, that from Baltimore being withdrawn on account of the international conference in 1900 for Washington.

Rev. J. W. Thomas, D. D., of Washington, and Rev. R. R. Doherty and Dr. J. B. Young delivered addresses.

Rev. H. B. Leach of Washington, junior superintendent, reported 512 junior chapters, with 30,000 members, a gain during the year of eighty per cent. The total membership is 125,000.

EX-CONSUL GENERAL WILLIAMS.

Went into the Consular Service Temporarily and Resigned Twenty Years Ago.

Mr. R. M. Williams, ex-consul general at Havana, closed up his official business with the State Department today and left for his home in Brooklyn. A Star reporter met him at the department, but was unable to induce him to discuss the political situation in Cuba in any of its phases.

Gen. Williams has been a resident of Cuba for the past several years and is probably the best posted man in this country in regard to the history and condition of that island.

He was first engaged there in a business way for twenty-nine years and then was persuaded to accept a temporary appointment as consul general for the island.

"I went into the consular service for three months," said he to The Star reporter, "and remained there in various capacities for five years."

"I think I am deserving of a rest, and I am going to leave one. Although I have been in the consular service, and I will spend my time at my home in this country hereafter, the department that Mr. Williams left the affairs of the consulate in excellent shape."

DISTRICT GOVERNMENT.

Appointments.

Harry B. Davis, N. R. Grimm, Charles E. Burden and Robert Carmody have been appointed draughtsmen at the District office, and will begin their duties at \$4 per day, and Miss Margarette Whitley has been appointed tracer at \$3 per day.

Tires of Vehicles.

Within a few days the Commissioners will amend the police regulations by inserting a clause regulating the width of tires of vehicles, which is a long needed piece of some regulation on this subject has been before the Commissioners, and they determined to regulate the subject by the new regulations.

Accordingly, Capt. Fiebigler, before he left for West Point, drew up a set of regulations to govern the matter, and submitted them to the Commissioners for their consideration. He has since returned with their approval, and the recommendation that they be added to the police regulations.

These regulations have already appeared in The Star.

SERGEANT DALEY COMMENDED.

Action Taken by the W. C. T. U.—Other Business Transacted.

The regular quarterly meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the District of Columbia, which was held in the Star last evening, began yesterday morning at Metropolitan Baptist Church, Rev. Dr. Williams pastor, corner of 6th and A streets northeast, closed late in the afternoon.

After the close of The Star's report a communication was read from Rev. J. Morgan, secretary of the general committee, in charge of the Christian Endeavor convention, thanking the union for its decision to have the headquarters of the W. C. T. U. at the Albert Hotel, and a resolution was adopted that a committee of ladies should be constantly in attendance during the convention week at the W. C. T. U. headquarters.

A resolution was also unanimously adopted, commending Police Sergeant John C. Daley for his work in raising a fund for the relief of the poor, and expressing the regret of the union at his misfortune at being burnt in the fire at the Albert Hotel, and a resolution was adopted that a committee of ladies should be constantly in attendance during the convention week at the W. C. T. U. headquarters.

The report of the treasurer showed that the collections during the year amounted to \$395.79, and disbursements to \$395.79, leaving a balance of \$395.79 in the treasury. Mr. Chapman, who has the superintendent of the District of Columbia, reported that more than 2,000 boys in the public schools have signed the total abstinence pledge.

Mrs. Jessie Lawson, superintendent of work among the colored people, announced that a home for destitute working colored women will be opened in the first of July. During the afternoon addresses were made by Mrs. S. D. LaFetra and others.

For Congress.

HAMILTON, Ohio, June 27.—The republican convention of the third Ohio District today nominated Robert M. Nevins of Dayton for Congress.

Sale of Real Estate.

Bradford & Pitney, real estate brokers, have sold, for Stilson Hutchins, to Harry M. Baker, the property at the southwest corner of 13th and H streets northwest.

Cricket.

LONDON, June 27.—At the end of the first inning of the game today between Shrewsbury and the eleven of the Haverford Cricket Club of Haverford, Pa., the score stood 151 for the Americans and 72 for the home side. The first innings in which the Americans have taken part in England. They landed at Liverpool on June 24.

A KNOCK-OUT DROPS CASE

Happy Jack Lawton Held in \$3,000 Bail for the Grand Jury.

Testimony in the Case of His Dealings With Farmer Burris of Norbeck, Md.

Matthew F. Merigan, otherwise Happy Jack Lawton, and sometimes known as Fred. Mason, was in the Police Court this afternoon on the charge of assault with intent to kill. It was another case of "knockout drops." Judging by the record of the last court case, knockout drops are becoming very popular with people who are planning to make money easily.

The complainant was Richard J. Burris, a guileless young countryman from the neighborhood of Norbeck, Md. Wednesday of last week he came into town with a wagon load of country produce.

Early the next morning he went to the American House to deliver a bushel of beans. On coming out a man addressed him in a pleasant manner, and a friendship was struck which was sealed with a couple of drinks. The stranger, who gave his name as Christopher, insisted on paying for everything.

Burris testified that he had left his wagon at the market, and the stranger invited him to drive him home in a hack. On the way the stranger, who was in the dock today as the defendant, spoke of going out to Norbeck to take board at the farm where Burris works. Merigan, or Christopher, proved a very pleasant companion, and insisted on going across the Long Bridge to the city, where he was to go to his home. They started toward Virginia, and when they were on the bridge Merigan took a bottle of knockout drops from his pocket and offered Burris a drink.

"It didn't taste," said Burris on the stand, "but when I drank it I felt perfectly sober, for I had only had a couple of drinks of beer. But when he turned the bottle upside down it began to foam, and it was a sign it was good whiskey, so I took a mouthful, but spit it out, for it was awful hot."

Continuing, Burris said that when they had crossed the bridge he was feeling very queer, and he told the stranger that he was a drink of beer, telling him that it would make him feel all right. The defendant bought three bottles at a saloon. The witness testified that he drank one of the half a bottle, for from the time he took the first swallow he knew nothing more until he awoke in the morning. He found the hack and driver were gone, as was his new-found friend. So was all the money he had, about \$12, his watch and his hat.

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UNAVOIDABLE DELAY.

Patent Office Publications Will Be Delayed Until After Tomorrow.

People who have been waiting for the patent office have noticed recently that there has been some delay in the issue of the list of patents. In talking about this matter to a Star reporter today, Mr. J. W. Babson, the chief of the issue and Gazette division, patent office, said:

"The appropriation for printing and binding for the Interior Department for the fiscal year 1896-97 became so nearly exhausted in the month of April that a great deal of it had to be expended. As the necessary work was retarded until an appropriation to supply the deficiency could be made, the issue of the list of patents was delayed. It is now being brought up to date as fast as possible."

At this time the printing office is about four days behind in its work. The list of patents made, and it is believed that the list of patents will be brought up to date at the time of the issue of the list of patents. It is in this connection that no blame attaches to the contractor for the photo-lithographic work."

THEY CALLED ON MCKINLEY.

Messrs. Keene and Hanford Pay a Visit to the President.

Charles Hanford, the well-known Washington actor, has just returned from a trip to Canton, Ohio, on a visit to Governor McKinley, in company with Thomas W. Keene. Mr. Hanford met Mr. Keene by appointment in Philadelphia, and the two journeyed to the town that is just now the headquarters of the republicans, to pay their respects to the nominee for President.

The visit was an exceedingly pleasant one, McKinley and Keene being old-time friends, and an enjoyable conversation of over an hour was participated in by the three gentlemen. Mr. Keene then asked just what Mr. Hanford returned to this city.

Keene does not look unlike McKinley, and a somewhat resemblance is noticeable. Keene had occasion to sit on the porch of the house while the major was in the city, and he was very much interested in the people passing by. He was very much interested in the people passing by, and he was very much interested in the people passing by.

Keene had